



CALENDAR

December: no Chapter meeting
2023

January: tbd. ZOOM meeting.

February, April, and June in-person meetings the third Wednesday of the month at the Norman Murray Center in Mission Viejo.

A SAGE IN EVERY GARDEN

A Sage in Every Garden (SIEG) will be traveling to a city near you in 2023.

Thanks to the SIEG campaign, almost 400 young sages have found new homes throughout Orange County in 2022. Roger's Gardens has also given away an additional 300 white sages.

SIEG continues next year, beginning at the Nature Interpretive Center at the Dana Point Headlands on Saturday, January 14, 2023.

Our chapter's goal is to give away 2,000 sages at events throughout Orange County, and also to educate people about the unique, sacred qualities of white sage, how white sage is under threat from poaching, and how white sage helps nature.

SIEG is a fun campaign that facilitates relationships between people and plants. When you help us give away white sage, you meet interesting, caring people, and share your knowledge about white sage, native plants, OCCNPS, field trips, meetings, and more.



Would you like to help spread the white sage joy? We need one or two volunteers at each these 2023 events. If you are available, contact the team at Sage@occnps.org with your preferred date.

- 1 **January 14, 2023: Nature Interpretive Center**, 9:30 a.m. until noon, Dana Point Headlands. 96 plants will be given away, one per OC resident while supplies last.
- 2 **January 21, 2023: Orange Home Grown**, 10 a.m. until noon, Orange. 96 plants will be given away, one per resident while supplies last).
- 3 **January 28, 2023: Heritage Garden**, 10 a.m. until noon, Irvine. 96 plants will be given away, one per resident while supplies last.
- 4 **February 11, 2023: Environmental Nature Center**, 10 a.m. until noon, Newport Beach. 96 plants will be given away, one per resident while supplies last.
- 5 **February 19, 2023: Unitarian Universalist Church**, 10 a.m. until noon, Costa Mesa. 50 plants will be given away. one per resident while supplies last.
- 6 **February 22, 2023: Laguna Beach Garden Club**, 9:30 a.m. until noon, Laguna Beach. 80 plants will be given away, one per resident while supplies last.
- 7 **February 25, 2023: Shipley Nature Center**, 10 a.m. until noon, Huntington Beach. 50 plants will be given away, one per resident while supplies last.

THE OCTOBER CNPS CONFERENCE

The hugely successful CNPS Conference took place in October in San Jose. Among Orange County chapter attendants were three who received a **Traveler's Grant**. Here are their comments on the experience.

It was an honor to have the support of OC CNPS to attend this year's symposium. As a first-time attendee, I represented both UC Irvine and the Newport Bay Conservancy. With a dual role as a PhD student and a restoration practitioner, I greatly appreciated the range of presentations at this year's symposium. I greatly enjoyed networking with consulting firms, non-profit organizations, and academic researchers. I was inspired by everyone's commitment to diversity and equity in their restoration projects. One goal I have next is to encourage more undergraduate students from my university to join their local chapters and present research at the next symposium. I truly had an amazing experience that wouldn't have been possible without the support from my local chapter!

David Banuelas, PhD Candidate, UC Irvine
Newport Bay Conservancy

The 2022 CNPS conference in San Jose was my first time attending and would not have been possible without the CNPSOC award. One thing I enjoyed most about the conference was being able to make connections and network with likeminded individuals. I was able to finally meet a lot of folks that I had known about or had heard of in the native plant world. Every session I went to was inspiring and I was able to soak up so much new information. It was great to see and hear all that is happening across our state. I know things can only get better and everyone that is involved with CNPS is being a steward of the land. It was great to see that CNPS made an effort to include indigenous speakers and many other of various backgrounds, I hope this only continues to flourish.

Gabriel Verduzco, OCCNPS board, Social Media
co-chair

Thanks to the Orange County chapter of the California Native Plant Society, I was invited to my first CNPS conference, in San Jose. What a great experience this was! It was amazing interacting with the variety of people with a diverse set of interests and expertise during my time there. Of particular interest to me was listening to the up and coming researchers on topics ranging from chaparral habitat fire resilience to current thinking in ecological restoration. The mini-talks session was especially rewarding to me as it showcased how native plants and conservation are important in all aspects of society and in particular my interests in rare native species distribution and restoration. A very rewarding experience to attend.

Jonathan Frank, chapter Field Trip
chairman

The Traveler's Grant is one of several offered by our chapter. For more information about our grants program, please go to our website, occnps.org, and check under **Education**.

LESLEY BINDLOSS, NEW OCCNPS BOARD MEMBER



From the English countryside of her youth to the canyons and hills of Southern California, Lesley has enjoyed learning about and protecting the natural environment. She was a docent with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy for several years and is now part of a team led by Joan Miller that removes invasive plants from our parklands. She is a weekly volunteer at Vera's Sanctuary in Trabuco Canyon, helping to weed, design, and plant this 12-acre native botanical garden. As an "Eco-Warrior" in the San Clemente Garden Club, Lesley participates in a monthly beach clean-up and helps make each club meeting a zero-waste event. Although retired from teaching ESL since 2020, she is still active on the board of South Coast Literacy Council as Recording Secretary. She regularly hikes and bikes our local trails with friends, and is passionate about preserving our unique coastal sage scrub habitat. Lesley looks forward to working with the OCCNPS board to educate and inspire the public to use more native plants in their gardens.

EMERGENT INVASIVE PLANTS IN ORANGE COUNTY – AN UPDATE

Since 2015 your Orange County Chapter has been actively involved in Invasive Plant issues in Orange County, especially the Early Detection of new weed species. We have annually published a comprehensive research and data-driven list of Emergent species here in Orange County. Emergent Invasive plants are a small subset of all invasive plants. It is limited to only those species that are 1) newly arrived in the region, 2) with a limited distribution and 3) the potential to cause high ecological disruption. These are species that can still be either eradicated or significantly controlled within the county.

Below is a brief update of the current known status of the 17 plants on our 2022 Emergent Invasive List. To learn more about the individual plants, see images, or research the specific locations, see Calflora.org. Requests for additional information, and corrections or questions should be addressed to invasiveplants@occnps.

Aegilops triuncialis Barbed Goatgrass

A single small population at Starr Ranch Audubon represents the only occurrence in OC and one of only a handful in Southern CA. Has been under aggressive management here since its discovery in 2015. Possibly now extirpated, but surveying and management continues.

Genista monspessulana French Broom

A small population was detected in 2019 in the Holy Jim area of Trabuco Canyon, Cleveland National Forest. The only occurrence between L.A. and San Diego. Some management, but the population continues.

Parthenium hysterophorus Santa Maria Feverfew

The only wildlands occurrences in California are here in OC. A small urban colony in downtown Santa Ana, detected in 2015, is under modest management, but continues. Detected in 2016 in San Diego Creek channel just N of I405. Under some management here by OC Public Works, but the population has expanded significantly up the channel.

Brassica fruticulosa Mediterranean Cabbage

A new Brassica expanding in the San Bernardino area. A first report in OC in 2020 in the Bolsa Chica area, where it is under management, is 30 miles disjunct from all other occurrences. Possibly spread to adjacent private oil field land and a wetland area one mile to the NE, but not confirmed.

Cenchrus echinatus Southern Sandbur

Reported in OC in 2015 but probably present earlier and unreported due to identification difficulties. Currently known in OC in sandy habitats along PCH from about Beach Blvd to the Santa Ana River mouth. Management level is uncertain.

Cenchrus longispinus Mat Sandbur

Known in the county from four or five widely scattered inland locations. Difficult identification and possibly more widespread. No organized management underway.

Senecio angustifolius

Originally identified from a single plant in the Agua Chinon (Loma Ridge area) in 2016, but not re-found. A single plant in Harding Canyon detected in 2018 was removed. An extended colony in Red Rock Canyon, Whiting Ranch, also detected in 2018, is under aggressive management by OC Parks. A species of significant concern, also present on USMC Camp Pendleton, and one to learn and be on the lookout for.

Centaurea diluta Spotted Knapweed

Known from the Villa Park Detention Water Basin since at least 1973. After 45 years and no other county records, in 2019 and 2021 isolated colonies appeared in the Quail Hill Open Space (Irvine) and at two sites in Fullerton. Management is ongoing by the Irvine Ranch Conservancy at Quail Hill. Other colonies are not currently under any organized management.

Dipogon lignosus Okie Bean

OC's first detection was at the mouth of Aliso Creek in 2021, with three additional colonies in San Diego and one in L.A. In the past 12 months, 3-4 additional detections have been found along urban interfaces in Huntington Beach and Laguna Beach/Laguna Niguel.

Euphorbia terracina Geraldton Carnation Weed

The first OC detection of this highly invasive perennial was made at O'Neill Regional Park in 2021, where it continues, but is under management by OC Parks. A small urban colony in private property was found on the Balboa Peninsula in 2022 and is being monitored.

Hypericum canariense Canary Island St. John's Wort

An infestation at the Dana Point Headlands from the 1980s is close to extirpation. An extended colony in San Juan Capistrano since at least 2010 continues without any organized management. A significant colony in Laguna Canyon, detected in 2017 is under management by the City of Laguna Beach and Laguna Canyon Foundation.

Melinis repens Natal Grass

Detected at several locations, primarily in the Laguna Niguel area along urban edge corridors, but spreading into native habitat. No organized management. A significant pest in San Diego Co.

Galenia pubescens Coastal Galenia

The first OC detection was made in the Laguna Coast Wilderness in 2017. The colony has been under ongoing management by OC Parks volunteers. There are two or three other detections in neighboring counties.

Rubus armeniacus Himalayan Blackberry

Common and highly invasive in much of California, especially to the North, but only present at seven known colonies in OC. Populations are widely scattered with minimal management.

Senecio linearifolius Linear-leafed Australian Fireweed

The first records from CA were in OC (1985 and 1998). It has subsequently invaded coastal San Diego Co. OC detections are expanding, especially in south county. Limited management activity.

Volutaria tubuliflora Egyptian Knapweed

The initial detection for North America was Upper Newport Bay about 1987, but misidentified. This very high priority weed was re-discovered at the bay in 2015. Under aggressive management by the Newport Bay Conservancy and OC Parks, with extirpation the goal.

Centaurea benedicta Blessed Thistle

A single plant detected in a wash at Caspers Wilderness Park in 2021. Possibly a waif. Ongoing surveys have not located additional plants, but are continuing.

Centaurea solstitialis Yellow Starthistle

This very common invasive plant is abundant to the North and East, but only occurs in limited areas of OC, primarily in the Northern foothills of the Santa Ana Mts., upper Silverado Canyon and along SR74, where it is being managed. A new detection was made in 2022 in Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and is also under management.

Chrysanthemoides monilifera Bitou Bush

California's first detection (a San Diego colony preceding this is still uncertain) was made in 2013 near the mouth of Aliso Creek. Its footprint here has expanded along the coastal strand as through urban landscapes. Slightly disjunct colonies and plants also exist about 6 km to the Northwest in the vicinity of Boat Canyon and Water Tank Trail and may represent a separate introduction. A small urban colony persists in landscaping in Newport Beach. No management is underway.

Osteospermum calendulaceum Stinking Roger

The first continental U.S. detection was made near the Festival of Arts compound toward the base of Laguna Canyon in a fuel management zone. A management plan has been developed and management has begun by the Laguna Canyon Foundation and OC Parks. A significant weed in Australia, its potential environmental impacts, seedbank longevity, and natural history in California are currently under study. This species will likely soon be added to the OCCNPS Emergent Invasive Species List.

Ron Vanderhoff
Invasive Plant Committee
OCCNPS



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Senecio linearifolius Linear-leaved Australian Fireweed



Volutaria tubuliflora Egyptian Knapweed

UNDERUSED NATIVES-WORTHY OF A SPOT IN OUR GARDENS (PART 2)

Dan Songster

As a follow up to the last article **Underused Natives-Part 1** (published in the October, 2022 newsletter), here are a few more native plants that I feel should be used in our home gardens.

Antigonon leptopus (San Miguel Coral Vine)



We just don't have too many vines among our list of our California natives to use in our home gardens. Most get huge (our native Clematis and Grapes for instance) and tend to take over. Yes, even this vine can get fairly large but is easily kept in check by tipping if you like. Once established, this quick growing vine has tons of lovely bright pink flowers, and a very long blooming period-through summer and fall when many of our natives are looking tired and bereft of flowers. In fact, on occasion it has bloomed for me into the winter holidays! Found on the most southern extension of our California floristic province, (San Miguel Island), this a BEAUTY, and supports bee's like crazy!

Why isn't it used more? Not all that easy to find in nurseries though Tree of Life has sold it for years. Sometimes it is slow to establish, but if you get past that first season it should do fine. As mentioned, it does die way back in late winter and does not bounce back until mid to late spring. That can be disturbing, seeing your lovely flowering vine start to shed leaves and the stems actually die, Yikes! For me, knowing it will come back and bloom all through summer makes it easier to bear its temporary absence.

Gardening Tip: When it starts first putting out its new growth, guide the shoots up the support you have provided, (trellis, fence, lattice or other framework) it has tendrils that will latch on to your support. Once established, you will enjoy several months of blooms before it starts dying back in earnest sometime in early to mid winter—once it really starts to look dormant, just cut back stems to stubs a few inches tall and in spring it will be pushing up new growth like crazy, much like a Clematis. By summer it is in full, glorious, bloom!

Remember, by the time we normally plant our natives this one only has a few more months to get established prior to its dormant period. So be sure to water it during those fall and early winter months. Once past this 1st year hurdle, it is an easy, showy, and rewarding plant to grow.

***Ceanothus cuneatus* ‘Snowball’ (Snowball Ceanothus)**



A good selection for any native garden, perhaps especially for dry sunny hillsides or cascading over a wall's edge. This densely mounding shrub 3 - 5 feet tall and wide, is easy to grow in a variety of soils and garden situations. It has been particularly long lived for us at the native garden at Golden West College. The showy, ball-like clusters of snow-white flowers really stand out against the plant's arching branches of dark green, leathery leaves. Note: This is one of the earliest Ceanothus to flower, blooming in late winter, often as early as January. Find it—Buy it—Plant it! Originally selected for the garden by Lester Rowntree, this beauty was introduced by Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (now California Botanic Garden) in 1954.

Why isn't it used more? Good Question.... It is fairly easily found in nurseries (currently available at Tree of Life). Perhaps it is not used as much because of being white flowered, instead of the blue we all love. Also, the foliage is the small holly-like leaf of the Cerastes section of ceanothus not the lush green of say 'Yankee Point'. Finally, it may not inspire confidence when viewed in a one-gallon container—looking fairly gawky. But once planted it will become one of the beauties of your garden.

Gardening Tip: Plant in full sun with occasional to no summer water once established. Actually, it prefers to keep its roots cool but dry in the summer. If you want to rinse off the leaves now and then, that is fine but no soaking after first full year. It is best near the coast but can take inland heat and drought, as well as heavier soils if it gets “some” afternoon shade. It needs no trimming to attain its dense form or any other maintenance. Like many Ceanothus, this is a great addition to the habitat garden offering food and cover for birds and nectar for bees and butterflies. Deer resistant.

***Dudleya viscida* (Sticky Live Forever)**



With leaves similar in shape as the Lady Finger Dudleya (*Dudleya edulis*), this local live-forever has attractive almost lime green, shiny foliage that can have touches of red when under stress from cold evening temperatures. Easily grown in various soils, from gritty sands to clay! The leaves are covered in a sticky, oily exudate which has a faintly resinous scent. Dudleya expert, Steve McCabe says that on a warm day this Dudleya “...has a unique aroma that reminds some people of pines...” while Roger Raiche, former Director of UC Botanic Garden, thinks its fragrance is “like citrus”. Either way its many-branched inflorescences, with each branch bearing up to 10 flowers are

gorgeous, and it fills a nice niche in a smaller garden.

Why isn't it used more? Not as striking as its big and bold relative the Chalk Dudleya and not as cute as *D. farinosa*, *D. cymosa*, or the little *D. attenuata*. But this Orange County beauty provides an excellent flowering display of pink with no work on your part. Can often be found at Tree of Life Nursery during season—But not every year, so get them when you can!

Gardening Tip: Yes, it does like nice draining soils but can do quite nicely in clay soils too, especially when mixing some decomposed granite into your backfill soil. Excellent in containers and rock gardens, but will work when planted in raised beds or almost any landscape situation! When it is available in four-inch size buy up several and plant them in several pocket-like locations and it will be happy—You cannot go wrong. Little to no watering needed but if you do water in late spring and summer months, don't worry, this species is more resistant to fungal diseases than some Live-Forevers.

Eriogonum cinereum (Ashleaf Buckwheat)

An excellent, versatile ground cover that thrives in both coastal gardens and inland. This buckwheat is one of Bob Allen's favorite native plants and although an Orange County native it was most likely more prominent before coastal development erased much of its native range. It is a perennial shrub to 4 ft. on rare occasion, normally much shorter with whitish-pink flower clusters on pale gray-green foliage—a study in pastels! The clusters of flowers that appear every summer are very important to the survival of butterflies and therefore this plant makes a perfect addition to any butterfly garden. Also, the flowers, leaves and seeds are used by many of the smaller animals.

Why isn't it used more? Honestly, I am not sure why it is not used more often. There are a lot of wonderful, easy to grow Buckweats available—maybe it gets lost in the crowd?

Gardening Tip: Yes, it is recommended for erosion control on slopes and hillsides, but this plant is so pretty, I love to see its soft foliage and flowers in the garden, hugging boulders and flowing over banks of dry “streambeds”. It does well in a variety of soils including clay. And as mentioned, it is a good selection for butterfly gardens.

Pseudognaphalium californicum (California Everlasting)

This can be annual, biennial or a short lived perennial depending on local conditions. Often commonly seen on hikes and field trips, look for this plant at the edge of the trail, thriving in disturbed soils and full sun—it is considered a pioneer species. California Everlasting will often become dormant during the summer and wait for the next rains to perk up its above ground appearance. Stems bear linear to somewhat lance-shaped leaves, one to five inches long. The green herbage is glandular and scented producing a distinctive citrus aroma to some, a vanilla or maple syrup smell to others. *Pseudognaphalium californicum* is great for the

butterfly garden, attracting the White Checkered Skipper, Great Purple Hairstreak, Mormon metalmark, and Painted Lady butterflies (as well as a plethora of moths). The floral bracts remain on the plant after flowering, making these ‘everlasting flowers’ useful in dried flower arrangements.

Why isn't it used more? Not commonly found in nurseries and is relatively short lived. Since it is not that easily found in nurseries, you may want to visit Golden West College Native Garden to obtain a seedling. Contact the author to arrange.

Gardening Tip: As mentioned, the California Everlasting is a biennial or short lived perennial so don't be dismayed by its demise. It is tolerant of a wide variety of soil types and disturbed soils, growing to 18"-36" tall. Excellent in an informal garden or wildscape. Could even be used as part of an English style perennial garden. I rarely need to plant it since it seeds around. I always leave some of the new plants when it sprouts in the garden. (The plants in Golden West College Native Garden were obtained almost 20 years ago from seedlings at a stalled housing project in Foothill Ranch near my home in El Toro. They seed every year and the current plants have descended from those first garden residents.) Their seedlings are easily pulled if they begin to crowd in on other plants.

Sporobolus airoides (Alkali Sacaton Grass)

This bunch grass is tough, heat tolerant, and beautiful—one of the few species of grass which always rises to meet my expectations. I first heard about it during one of Barbara Eisenstein wonderful presentations several years ago. It's not as big as the ever-popular Deer Grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*), but it seems to have similar adaptability and hardiness with softer foliage and a wonderfully delicate grass flower, normally blonde but rarely tinted pink. The seeds which follow are enjoyed by birds but do not reseed readily in the garden like Purple needlegrass or Purple three-awn grass does. This bunchgrass reaches one to three feet tall and wide in full sun to part shade with little to no irrigation once

established. In hotter, interior areas, an occasional deep soak will keep them looking green and vibrant. We've found this grass does well in most soil types, even tolerating poorly draining clay. Also called Dropseed Sacaton,

this was once abundant throughout the Central Valley before agriculture and development displaced it. This species can be found in hotter areas from Washington down to Mexico. Deer normally avoid eating it.

Why isn't it used more? Alkali Sacaton is not always found in nurseries, but aside from that, people do not use grasses as much as they could in natural gardens. But it seems to be overlooked, even among people who want to grow bunch grasses in their gardens. Mystery.

Gardening Tip: If you choose to cut it back after a few years do it in the spring since it is a warm season grass and will more easily sprout back with late spring and early summer weather. A bit of water in the warm months is appreciated by this grass. I like to plant them in "running" groups of one to two plants deep, winding through the background of a garden, (not always possible in small gardens, where three staggered plants may be all that can fit). As with many of our bunch grasses, it is striking when its seed heads are backlit by an afternoon sun!

Note: There will be more underused natives in Part III. Have a candidate plant? Email me at songster@cox.net

2023 OCCNPS GARDEN TOUR SATURDAY. APRIL 1. 2023

There's still room for more gardens! If you would like to offer your native (or mostly native) garden for consideration, please contact **Robin Huber** at Roberthuber@gmail.com

JOIN THE EFFORT TO ABOLISH
INVASIVE PLANTS IN OUR
LOCAL WILDLANDS!



JOAN MILLER WANTS YOU!
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